

From: "The Wilderness Society" <ncinfo@twsnw.org>

Subject: Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions, Explore the Boulder River Trail & More!



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Photographer*

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Know someone who would like to learn more about the North Cascades? [Click here and let them know!](#)

[Learning Activity of the Month](#)

Lee Mann: A Photographer's Journey Through the North Cascades

Mar 27–28, 2010

[Lee Mann's](#) roots in the North Cascades region stretch back to before Washington was a state. Join the [North Cascades Institute](#) as Lee shows his favorite images from a lifetime of photographing the North Cascades and tells the stories behind the scenery.

[Learn more about this event.](#)

[Cascade Land Conservancy](#)

Cascade Land Conservancy fills a unique niche as the largest land conservation, stewardship and community building organization in Washington State. For over 20 years, The Conservancy has led efforts to conserve more than 158,000 acres of forests, farms, shorelines, parks and natural areas.

[Learn more about this great](#)

Welcome

Dear Andrea,

Spring is just around the corner here in the Pacific Northwest – I know I enjoyed the recent sunny weather and am looking forward to more of the same!

Last week, the [Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and the Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act](#) passed the House Committee on Natural Resources. This bill would add low-elevation forest land to the existing Alpine Lakes Wilderness, as well as provide protection for the Pratt and Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie rivers. We here at The Wilderness Society are very excited about this legislation and its potential to expand one of the most popular wilderness areas in the country.

This month, celebrate the beginning of spring on the Boulder River trail in the Boulder River Wilderness and keep your eyes open for early-blooming wildflowers

like trillium, osoberry, red currant, and lilies. Also this month, be sure to check out the [North Cascades Institute's](#) weekend with North Cascades photographer Lee Mann, and the [Washington Trail Association's](#) "Hike Organizing 101" to learn how to get organized to take youth outdoors.

Until next month,
John Chelminiak
North Cascades Initiative Director

The Wilderness Society's North Cascades Initiative envisions the North Cascades as a celebrated national treasure, where wilderness is preserved for future generations, where recreational opportunities are enhanced and well-planned, and where vibrant local communities realize the benefits of the wildlands surrounding them.

My North Cascades Story

By Eric Zamora
Photographer

A Kaleidoscope of Red, Yellow and Orange

When I got there I didn't want to leave. When I left, I wanted to go back.

It was the perfect time of year. No mosquitoes or black flies. Temps were in the 30s at night, 60s during the day. And, despite being late September, almost everything, even the high peaks stabbing skyward, were nearly snow free. A kaleidoscope of red, yellow and orange radiated forth. Evergreens interrupted the leafy fire.

[Continue reading Eric's story.](#)



Eric Zamora

Conservation

Natural Wonders of the North Cascades *Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions Passes House Committee*

Last week was an exciting one for [wilderness](#) in Washington State! The House Committee on Natural Resources approved the [Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and the Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act](#) last Wednesday, moving the legislation closer to final passage. The measure would protect an additional 22,000 acres of wilderness adjoining the existing Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area and would add 10 miles of the Pratt River and nearly 30 miles of the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River to the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Originally designated in 1976, the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area has since become one of the most popular wilderness areas in the country. The 22,000 additional acres are comprised of dense low-elevation forests whose robust fish and wildlife populations include cougars, black bears, bobcats, elk, deer and trout. The inclusion of low-elevation land will conserve diverse ecosystems, add to the biodiversity of the wilderness area, and protect recreation opportunities such as

[organization.](#)

Steps Into Wilderness *Steps into Wilderness: Hike Organizing 101 Workshop*

Mar 20 2010 - 1:00pm - 4:00pm, at the Bellingham REI

WTA is offering a free Hike Organizing 101 workshop for community organization leaders that are interested in taking youth hiking!

[Learn more about this event.](#)

The North Cascades Are Calling -- You!

We're now on [Facebook!](#) Make sure to check out our new nonprofit page and [become a Fan](#) of the North Cascades!

Do you love to picnic, hike, camp, climb or commune with nature? Or do you simply like to admire it all from afar? You can do all of that and more in the North Cascades! Visit: www.experiencewilderness.org to plan your next adventure into the North Cascades.

Questions? Comments?

Email us at ncinfo@twsw.org.

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hiking, backpacking, fishing, climbing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

The proposed legislation would also protect 10 miles of the Pratt River and nearly 30 miles of the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River as [Wild and Scenic Rivers](#). These rivers are home to world-class fishing, kayaking and whitewater rafting. Their protection under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System safeguards high water quality for downstream residents and preserves critical wildlife habitat. These rivers will be protected as free-flowing streams that are within easy reach of a major urban center, providing residents of the Seattle area with increased access to water-based recreation.

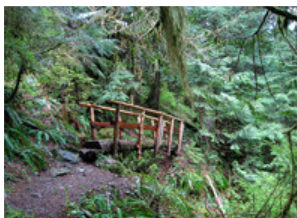
[Read our our press release.](#)

Recreation

Explore the North Cascades

Boulder River Trail, Boulder River Wilderness

Majestic, lush and inspiring are just three words that come to mind when describing the Boulder River Wilderness Area's 48,674 acres of forests. This pristine area was set aside by Congress as part of the 1984 Washington Wilderness Act. The wilderness area provides opportunities for family-friendly, year-round, snow-free recreation in the wilderness of the North Cascades region and represents one of the last lowland valleys of intact virgin forest remaining in Western Washington.



Boulder River

[Learn more about this hike.](#)

Vibrant Communities

Bellingham

In 2001, Bellingham was named one of *Outside* magazine's top 10 "Dream Towns" for its access to outdoor recreation. Located just 31 miles from Mount Baker's 10,778 foot summit, Bellingham sits on the shore of Bellingham Bay. The diversity of terrain, from mountain top to ocean, gives the town access to an incredible range of recreation opportunities.

[Learn more about Bellingham.](#)



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